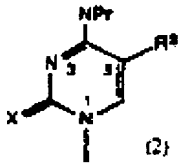
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-138 (Canceled).

139. (Previously Presented) A method of detecting the presence, absence or amount of a particular single-stranded DNA or RNA or a particular target duplex in a sample comprising:

selecting an oligomer having at least one base of formula (2):



(2)

wherein each X is independently O or S;

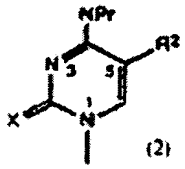
R^2 is a group comprising at least one pi bond connected to the carbon atom attached to the base; and

Pr is $(H)_2$ or a protecting group; and

using said oligomer to detect said DNA, RNA or target duplex.

140. (Previously Presented) The method of 139 wherein said oligomer is used for quantitating the amount of said DNA, RNA or target duplex in said sample.

141. (Previously Presented) A method of performing a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) to amplify a target sequence comprising including in a PCR assay mixture an oligomer having at least one base of formula (2):



(2)

wherein each X is independently O or S;

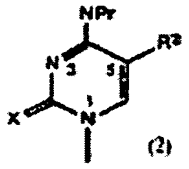
R^2 is a group comprising at least one pi bond connected to the carbon atom attached to the base; and

Pr is $(H)_2$ or a protecting group; and

effecting a polymerase chain reaction to amplify said target sequence.

142. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 141 further including a Taq polymerase in said PCR assay mixture.

143. (Previously Presented) A method of performing a nucleic acid amplification protocol to amplify a target nucleic acid comprising including in an assay mixture an oligomer having at least one base of formula (2):



(2)

wherein each X is independently 0 or S;

R^2 is a group comprising at least one pi bond connected to the carbon atom attached to the base; and

Pr is $(H)_2$ or a protecting group; and

effecting a protocol to amplify said target nucleic acid.

144. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 143 wherein said protocol includes hybridization of said oligomer to said target nucleic acid.

145-156 (Canceled).